

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested. Claims 6-7 stand withdrawn from consideration.

The rejections of claim 1 based on Omae et al (US Patent No. 5,570,215) and claims 2-5 based on Omae et al. in view of Manabe et al. (US Patent No. 6,411,355) are respectfully traversed.

Applicant believes that the claims previously on file patentably define over these references taken singly or in combination. However, the claims are amended herein to include a limitation that the liquid crystal display element is a *reflective or half-transmissive* liquid crystal display element in order to further emphasize differences between the claimed inventions and teachings of the cited references.

As set forth in claim 1, a *reflective or half-transmissive* liquid crystal display element comprises a selectively reflective layer for reflecting part or whole of circularly polarized light in a specific direction, the selectively reflective layer having a first average refractive index for a direction perpendicular to the display plane and a second average refractive index for a direction parallel to the display plane.

Further, the polarization plate, phase difference plate, liquid crystal layer, and selectively reflective layer are formed so that:

- 1) the absolute value of the sum total of the product of the thickness and the difference between the first and second average refractive indexes of the polarization plate,

- 2) the product of the thickness and the difference between the first and second average refractive indexes of the phase difference plate,
- 3) the product of the thickness and the difference between the first and second average refractive indexes of the liquid crystal layer, and
- 4) the product of the thickness and the difference between the first and second average refractive indexes of the selectively reflective layer is 50 nm or less.

These four (4) conditions are NOT TAUGHT by the cited references. In both Omae et al. (U.S.P. 5,570,215) and Manabe et al. (U.S.P. 6,411,355B1), the liquid crystal display elements are not reflective or half-transmissive liquid crystal display elements. In addition, none of the cited references specifically teach or even suggest providing a selectively reflective layer.

The Examiner suggests that Omae et al. teaches a selectively reflective layer at column 20, lines 5–40. However, this reference portion does not seem to have the teachings referred to by the Examiner.

Omae et al. teaches that the phase difference element has a retardation smaller than 50 nm at lines 30–34 of column 20. However, Omae et al. does not disclose or suggest the structure that the absolute value of the sum total of the product of the thickness and the difference between the first and second average refractive indexes of the polarization plate, the product of the thickness and the difference between the first and second average refractive indexes of the phase difference plate, the product of the thickness and the difference between the first and second average refractive indexes of the liquid crystal layer, and the product of

the thickness and the difference between the first and second average refractive indexes of the selectively reflective layer should be 50 nm or less.


There is no mention about a selectively reflective layer in Omae et al. or Manabe et al.

In the Official action dated July 18, 2003, the Examiner's assertion in the "Response to Argument" portion is not clearly understood.

It is believed that our claimed inventions are patentably different in structure from those of Omae et al. and Manabe et al., taken singly or in combination.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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